In the claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. (Previously Presented) A recombinant DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide, said isolated nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

9. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising ~~a~~ the nucleic acid as defined in claim 8 operably linked to a promoter.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An isolated host cell carrying ~~a~~ the vector according to claim 9.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The DNA molecule of claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has a sequence ~~corresponding to~~ comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

20. (Previously Presented) A pair of nucleic acid molecules, comprising a first nucleic acid consisting essentially of a fragment of at least 15 nucleotides capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:1 and a second nucleic acid consisting essentially of a fragment of at least 15 nucleotides capable of hybridizing to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the pair is

capable of directing the amplification of at least a portion of SEQ ID NO:1 in a polymerase chain reaction.